

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is responsive to the June 1, 2005 Final Office Action and the August 22, 2005 Advisory Action. In the Final Office Action: claims 1 and 2 were rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Baxley, et al. (USPN 6,657,975); and claims 3-18 were rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Baxley, et al., in view of Pester, III (USPN 5,475,732). These rejections were maintained in the Advisory Action. Reconsideration of the rejections of the pending claims is hereby requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to even further distinguish over the prior art of record. Claims 11-18 have been canceled. New claim 19 is believed to be patentable because of the limitations in the previous version of claim 1 and the following limitation: for transmission of a telephone call originating in an SSP and terminating in an SSP. New claim 20 is believed to be patentable because of the limitations in the previous version of claim 1 and the following limitations: for transmission of a telephone call originating in an SSP and terminating in an SSP and the voice information being switched from the circuit-switched network to a packet-switched network and back to a circuit-switched network.

Regarding claim 1, as noted by the Examiner, Baxley fails to disclose a plurality of media gateways. The Examiner states that it would be obvious to those with skill in the art and that one would be “motivated to do so to scale the audio conferencing system of Baxley with expanding circuit and packet switched networks to adequately serve an expanded network.” Applicant recognizes that official notice without specific support of documentary evidence is appropriate when a modification to the primary reference would make the invention “faster, cheaper, better, or stronger” (MPEP 2144.03), and recognizes that mere expansion may be similarly regarded.

Instead, the limitation in claim 1 of a plurality of media gateways establishes a new function or quality distinct from those disclosed in Baxley. Specifically, the “plurality of media gateways, each with its own point code,” in the invention is used to allow the voice information to be “switched from the circuit-switched network to a packet-switched network and back to a circuit-switched network.” In other words, one media gateway could be used on one end of the packet network and another media gateway are used on another end of the packet network.

Baxley discloses a media gateway to translate from a packet switched network 10 or a circuit switched network 20 to a conference system 100. As can be appreciated, as is not shown in or obvious from Baxley, the plurality of media gateways each with its own point code can provide conversion of voice information from a circuit-switched network to a packet-switched network and back into a circuit-switched network. As such, Applicant submits that the obviousness rejection of claim 1 is inappropriate.

Further, Baxley fails to provide that said media gateways are connectable to a switch, much less a switch providing signaling control to a plurality of media gateways each with its own point code controlling the processing of voice information. As such, Baxley only teaches use of a media gateway to provide translation of packet switched data to be compatible with the conference system 100 or a media gateway to provide translation of a circuit switched call to be compatible with the conference system 100.

Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is allowable for the above reasons. Applicant also submits that dependent claim 2 is allowable for the above reasons. Applicant further submits that claims 3-10 are allowable because Pester does provide the deficiencies in Baxley.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone

conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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